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Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, are the recommendations of the committees binding on the Government and the Education Department? 3-10 p.m.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Not at all, Sir. These are recommendations as the hon. Member himself described them. And recommendations cannot be binding.

Sri T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Are the Government aware, Sir, that it is obligatory on the part of the schools to provide three hours or three periods for moral instruction even now ?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir, that is so. But the question now under examination is how to revise that course of moral instruction.

Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Do not Government think that it is high time we introduced in the schools at least moral instruction?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Otherwise, Sir, we shall not be looking into the recommendations at all.

வித்துவான் தி. முத்துக்கண்ணப்பன் : ஐயா, எல்லா மதத்திற்கும் பொதுவான சர்வ மத கருத்துக்களைப் போதிப்பதால், மாணவர்களுக்கு ஒழுக்கம், நேர்மை, நீதிநெறி ஆகியவை வளரும். ஆதலால் அத்தகைய போதனையை அளிக்க அரசாங்கம் புனராலோசனை செய்யுமா ?

கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : ரிலிஜியஸ் இன்ஸ்ட்ரக்ஷன் ஒரு விஷயம், மாரல் இன்ஸ்ட்ரக்ஷன் வேறு விஷயம். மாரல் இன்ஸ்ட்ரக்ஷன் எம்மாதிரி இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்காக ஒரு கமிட்டி அமைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. டாக்டர் லக்ஷ்மண சாமி முதலியார் அவர்களைக் கொண்ட கமிட்டி ஒன்று பொதுவாக ரிலிஜியஸ், மாரல் இன்ஸ்ட்ரக்ஷன் கல்வி ஸ்தாபனத்தில் எவ்வாறு அமைப்பது என்பதைப்பற்றி அபிப்பிராயம் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். முன்னாள் கவர்னர் ஸ்ரீ பிரகாசா அவர்கள் தலைமையில் மற்றொரு கமிட்டி அமைக்கப் பட்டது. அவர்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயமும் வந்திருக்கிறது. அது பற்றி சென்னைப் பல்கலைக் கழகமும் நம்முடைய இலாகாவும் பரிசீலனை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அது முடிந்தபிறகு என்ன செய்யவேண்டுமென்று யோசிக்கலாம்.

Basic education

*** 205 Q.—Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—**

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the working of the basic education in the elementary schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to make any changes in the curriculum of basic elementary schools?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) to (c) Government have appointed an One-Man Committee to evaluate the work of basic training schools. The report of the committee has been received and it is under consideration.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, have the Government appointed any committee to go into the question of basic education in elementary schools and not training schools ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The question, Sir, is about basic education, as such. An One-Man Committee was appointed and the committee has presented a report and that report is under examination of the Government. Apart from that, I would like to add that the Central Government have appointed a committee which is going into the question.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is there any scheme for reorientation of training of elementary school teachers to relate their training to basic education?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, that is the idea, Sir. We are to reorientate many things. Basic education was originally evolved under different circumstances. Now we have to see what changes are required to suit the present needs. When there are a large number of schools, we have to see what changes are required to be made under the scheme of basic education.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, till the Government come to a definite conclusion on the recommendations of the One-Man Committee, will they stop converting elementary schools into the basic schools and also give retraining to originally basic-trained teachers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The recommendations of the One-Man Committee are under the examination of the Government. Apart from that, Government look forward to the recommendations of the committee that has been appointed by the Central Government, and meanwhile there won't be any changes.

Water-supply and Sewage Board

* 206 *Q.*—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal for the constitution of a Water-supply and Sewage Board on the lines of the State Electricity Board ; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : (*a*) & (*b*) The question is under the consideration of the Government.